Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

BA-2385

1. Name of P		(indicate preferr	ed name)	
historic		terian Church		
other	The Catholi	c Community at Relay		
2. Location				
street and number	5025 Cedar	Avenue		not for publication
city, town	Baltimore			vicinity
county	Baltimore C	ounty		
3. Owner of I	Property	(give names and ma	iling addresses of all owne	ers)
name	Relay Catho	lic Community, Inc.		
street and number	5025 Cedar	Avenue		telephone 410-247-4033
city, town	Baltimore		state MD	zip code 21227-4928
Contributing F X Contributing F Determined E Determined Ir Recorded by Historic Struct	Resource in Nation Resource in Local ligible for the Na neligible for the N	nal Register District Il Historic District tional Register/Maryland lational Register/Maryland	l Register	
Other6. Classificat	ion			
Category district X building(s) Structure site object	Ownership public private both	Current Function agriculture commerce/trade defense domestic education funerary government health care industry	Iandscape recreation/culture X religion social transportation work in progress unknown vacant/not in use other:	Resource Count Contributing Noncontributing 2 1 buildings 0 0 sites 0 0 structure 0 0 objects 2 1 Total Number of Contributing Resource

7. Description Condition __ excellent __ deteriorated __ you deteriorated __ ruins __ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Relay Presbyterian Church (The Catholic Community at Relay) is located at 5025 Cedar Avenue in Relay, in Southwestern Baltimore County, Maryland. The complex consists of a frame church and a frame parish house, both of which face north onto Cedar Avenue. The church is a three-bay by six-bay frame structure with board and batten siding, a gable roof that has asphalt shingles, a north-south ridge, and a kick at the eaves, and a poured concrete foundation with steel sash. The gable end has red slate in a diamond pattern and a marble date stone that reads "A.D. 1880." The three bays are divided by stick work, with the east bay containing a square stained-glass window. The center bay has a large lancet stained-glass window divided into three parts, with a lancet vent above it. The west elevation has an entrance in the north bay with two four-panel doors, a two-light transom, and a shed-roofed portico supported on diagonal brackets. There are four rectangular stained-glass windows. The roof has six gabled dormers with three-light sash. The south elevation has a three-bay by one-bay shed-roofed wing attached to it. The gable end of the church has red asphalt shingles. There is a lancet window similar to that on the west elevation, but the bottom half is cut off by the wing. The east elevation has a belfry above the eave, supported on two large chamfered posts that pass through the eave. The belfry has a gable roof supported by brackets. The eave has exposed rafter ends.

The interior of the church has a carpeted floor and walls with half wainscot below original chair rail. The wainscot has vertical ribs, was added, and laps the frieze under the chair rail and the top of the baseboard. The chancel at the south end has two steps up to it, and the altar rail was removed in the 1990s. There is no chair rail or wainscot on the chancel, just baseboard with a quirked ogee on top. The plaster beneath the wainscot is painted a dark brown. The architrave in the church has an ogee-and-bead backband. The smaller stained glass windows on the east and west pivot open in the center. The lights are three inches by five inches and are graded in color from light at the bottom to dark at the top, with a lancet profile created in the glass. The color of the glass is altered by protective covers on the exterior, and now goes from light green to dark greenish-blue. The north triple window is in memory of Minnie Haynes Greg and is also graded in color from light at the bottom to dark at the top. The south window has a dove at the top. There is a gabled ceiling of plaster with six oculi on each side.

The pews are walnut with plain sides that have a lancet profile on the top and moulded edges. There are three pews in the chancel that appear to be older and are grained. The pew ends have a rabbet cut into them. An early lectern survives. It is constructed of walnut with lancet-shaped panels of walnut burl. There are two panels on the front with hood moulds and one panel on each side with trefoil tops. At the corners are columns, and there is a frieze with quatrefoil cutouts. The top of the lectern is oak and appears to have been added. The double doors on the west have four panels each with sunken fields and ovolo panel moulds. The door architrave matches the windows, but has a beaded interior edge, and then a small pillar added to the inside. These doors are not original, nor were they cut down. There are hinged cornices at the top where the transom now is, indicating that the original doors filled the whole opening. The two-light transom is clearly an alteration. On the east wall, the south bay has a door with five lying panels that was apparently originally a window. This door has architrave with a large flat ogee backband and a small ogee on the inner edge, and is typical for the 1950s. The doorway leads to the addition.

There is a patch in the northwest corner of the ceiling of the church where a stove chimney originally was. On the east elevation, the north bay appears to have had double doors, based on the patching and cracks. There are no seams in the baseboard or chair rail, and the chair rail is probably added. The baseboard on the north wall matches that in the chancel. The south wall of the chancel has two doors with five lying panels and architrave that matches the east door. These doors lead to separate small rooms. The southwest room has a typical stained-glass window on the west and a one-over-one sash on sash cords on the south. The architrave on both windows matches that on the five-lying-panel doors. There is linoleum tile on the floor and plywood half wainscot. The southeast room matches the southwest room, but has two one-over-one sash on the south and a five-lying-panel door on the east that leads to the addition.

The east addition has carpeting on the floor and the same wainscot and trim as in the two small south rooms. The north window is a re-used small stained-glass sash, and the rest of the windows are one-over-one sash like those in the south rooms. There is an

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open stairwell that descends along the east wall to a landing at the south and a door to the exterior on the east wall. In the southeast corner of the addition is a closet built over the landing. The basement has a linoleum tile floor and poured concrete walls. The ceiling has recesses in it with wood boards and 1920s era light fixtures that do not have globes. The steel sash are casements with three eight-light sash below three four-light sash. There are three of these on the north, four on the west, and two on the east. There are also two doors on the east, one to the outside and one to a kitchen beneath the east addition. There are also two doors on the south elevation to bathrooms beneath the two south rooms. These bathroom doors have six panels and the door to the kitchen has two panels. There is also a beaded-edge vertical-board wall beneath the basement and the kitchen. The kitchen has a large range hood and the original large black stove was replaced about ten years ago. There are also wood cabinets and counters that date to the 1920s. There is a sub-basement below the stairs down to the kitchen, with an early furnace in it.

The parish church or manse is located at 5021 Cedar Avenue, and is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay by four-bay frame structure with asbestos shingle siding, a painted brick foundation, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles, a north-south ridge, and cross gables on the east and west. The ground slopes down to the east and the house is banked slightly on the north and west. The house has a wood water table, a kick between the first and second stories with a wood moulded cornice here that is wrapped in aluminum, and new one-over-one sash except where noted. The north elevation has a recessed porch in the east bay of the first story that has a wood deck, a plain post with small brackets, a beaded-edge-and-center board soffit with four beads in the center, and a new flush door and small window. The west bay has a large one-over-one sash. The second story has three one-over-one sash and there is a box cornice with returns. The gable end has paired one-over-one sash with a cantilevered wall above it supported with plain brackets.

On the east elevation, the first story has a bump out with a window, a shed roof, and a small porch on the north side that has a small window under the porch. There is a new door to the basement just south of center. In the recess of the front porch is a new six-panel door with two lights at the top. The north elevation of the bump out has a new door with nine lights over two panels. The second story has two windows in the southern third of the building, one in the center that is dropped, and one window to the north. There is one window in the cross gable with a small cantilevered gable on brackets above it. The south elevation has a window in the east bay of the foundation, two windows on the first story with no opening in the center bay, two openings on the second story with no opening in the east bay, and one window in the gable end, with no cantilever above it. The west elevation has two windows in the center of the foundation. The first story has windows in the north, north-center, and south bays, while the second story has a window in all four bays. The cross gable has a window with a small cantilever above it, on brackets.

Only the north half of the basement has been excavated, with a low brick wall dividing it from the crawlspace to the south. There is a concrete floor and parged brick walls. A circular-sawn summer beam runs north-south in the center of the building, and is supported by three brick piers, one of which is the chimney. The circular-sawn joists run east-west and lap each other at the summer beam. They are two-by-ten inches, spaced 16 inches on centers, with bridging fastened with wire nails. The stairs descend along the east wall and are now accessed by a new exterior door, but probably originally came from the kitchen to the south. The summer beam is half-lapped and toe-nailed in the center and sits on wood shingle shims. The chimney support is arched and still has its wood centering in place. There is a four-light casement on the north elevation, in the east bay, but the rest of the windows have been replaced.

The first story has one long narrow room on the north with a center passage that runs from this room to the south, a room on the west, two rooms across the south, and a stairway, new bathroom, and closet on the east side of the passage. The first story has plain mitered architrave, 2 1/4-inch pine flooring that runs north-south, and baseboard with ogee and bevel on the top. The center room has a corner fireplace that has been closed off. There is an oak mantel with a bellflower wreath on the frieze and a beveled mirror overmantel. There is a pulvinated cornice above the mirror that is supported by two Ionic columns set on plinths on the floor. The mantel shelf is supported by simple brackets. The hearth appears to be black slate. There is a mixture of five-lying-

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panel doors and new six-panel doors. A number of the rooms have cast iron foliate radiators. The southeast room is a modern kitchen. The southwest room has symmetrical architrave with bulls-eye corner blocks. The architrave has two ogees in the center, flanked by beads, and a beaded interior edge.

The second story stairway is only accessible from the exterior front porch now. The sixth step up has a notch in the edge that was probably for a newel post, and there is a patch in the wall and a pieced baseboard on the east wall that indicates that a landing or winder stairs was here and that the stairs originally ascended from the passage through the present bathroom. The top of the stairway has turned newel posts, narrow turned balusters, and a moulded handrail. There is a window on the landing, and then the stairs turn to the west. The second story has a passage that runs north-south, with two rooms at the north, a room at the west center, and three rooms across the south. The south-center room is a small bathroom. All of the architrave matches that in the first story southwest room, and the doors have five lying panels with plain rim locks, mineral knobs, and some old hinges with ball finials. There are two-light transoms above all of the doors except the door to the attic. Each chamber has an original built-in closet except for the southeast, and most of them are set in a corner. The flooring matches the first story and there are foliate radiators. The bathroom toilet tank is labeled "Standard" and has the date "Feb. 26," but not the year. The bathtub and sink appear to date to the 1920s or 1930s.

The attic has plaster on circular-sawn lath on the stairway, and a two-run stair with a landing that is set over the stairs from the first to the second story. The floor is 2 ½-inch pine that runs north-south. The chimney comes through the floor at an angle and twists 45 degrees to the west. The rafters are circular-sawn 2-by-6s that are mitered at the ridge and support shingle lath and circular-sawn wood shingles. One rafter is stenciled with "POEHLMAN & SCHNEPF [E?] ROM BALTIMORE, MD." The rafters are mitered at the foot and nailed to a board false plate. There are 2-by-4 circular-sawn studs in the gable ends with diagonal sheathing, and knee wall studs with wire nails. All of the visible nails are wire.

Period	Areas of Significa	nce Check and justif	Check and justify below		
1600-1699 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899 _X 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communication community pla		 health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime industry military 	 performing arts philospohy politics/government x religion science social history transportation other: 	
Specific date	es n/a	8	Architect/Builder Cl	harles L. Carson	
Constructio	n dates 1880, c.	1900			
Evaluation fo	r.	×			
N	ational Register	Mary	and Register	X not evaluated	

Cianificana

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The community of Relay, or St. Dennis, owes its existence to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which established this area as the point where teams of horses were changed in the days before steam engines powered the railroad. Despite the rapid replacement of horses. Relay remained an important location on the railroad, and the existence of dependable and fast transportation made this area a prime location for suburban development. As early as 1854 J. H. Luckett advertised that he had sold off 77 acres "to gentlemen of Baltimore for villa and cottage sites, who are now preparing to erect their buildings." This continued with the creation of the "Cedar Heights" development in 1875. The progress of all this development can be clearly seen in the 1877 Atlas of Baltimore County, and the construction of the Viaduct Hotel there, four years earlier, helped to insure that Relay would continue to be a draw for summer residents from Baltimore. Following upon the houses were community amenities, including churches such as Relay Presbyterian Church. Originally to be called Arlington Church, the building was described in the Baltimore Sun in April 1880. "The church will be a frame building, 19 ½ feet by 29 feet, one story high, with stained glass and ornamented windows. It will cost when completed \$2,500 and will be ready for occupancy by May 1.... The architects are Messrs. Dixon & Carson." Thomas Dixon was responsible for the Baltimore City Jail, the Baltimore County Courthouse, and the development of Dixon's Hill in Mt. Washington, among other projects. In partnership with Charles Carson, he designed the Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church and numerous other churches and buildings in the Baltimore area. One of these, the Mount Washington Presbyterian Church, is a small frame structure comparable to the Relay Church. The partnership was dissolved in 1880, and shortly afterward Carson designed the Catonsville Presbyterian Church, another small frame structure similar to the Relay church. (1)

No record was made concerning the design and construction of the church, the church minutes noting: "owing to the imperfect organization of the church no records were kept previous to April 1, 1883." Originally the Relay church was under the session of the Ellicott City church, but in 1894 it was decided that Relay was ready to have its own pastor. The pastor apparently found accommodation in the neighborhood year round, but in 1896 the record book notes that "the request of the pastor to be allowed to reside in the city during this winter" was granted. Relay was probably still primarily a summer community, leaving little for the pastor to do over the winter. Two years later interest was expressed in enlarging the church, but it was decided to wait until the congregation had secured a new pastor first. The church was never enlarged. Instead, a parsonage, or manse, was constructed, apparently to help the congregation to attract and keep a new pastor. Most church meetings were held at a trustee's house, and once or twice at the church, but in April 1900 the board met at the residence of the pastor. If the pastor was renting rooms, they would not have been a likely place to meet, so it is more likely that the manse had been completed by this time. It was certainly built by September 1901, when the records note: "the session met on the above date at the manse." Relay Church applied for aid at that time, responding to a set series of questions. They noted that they provided a parsonage, that they had raised \$2250.00 for the new building, and that it and other property were valued at \$3,000.00, while the church was only valued at \$2,000.00. Maps of Relay do not show the manse in 1898, and it is standing by 1915. Judging from the incomplete records, however, it must have

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been built c. 1899-1901. It was set in the center of the church's long lot, very close to the church. In 1903 \$65.00 was spent on repairs to the manse, including papering, plastering, staining, and window work. This was probably in response to hiring a new pastor the previous year. (2)

Undated and unsigned blueprints for alterations and additions to Relay Presbyterian Church are in the possession of the current owner. They document that the church building was picked up and moved to a new foundation about 34 feet to the west, getting it further away from the manse, and about eight feet to the north, closer to the street. The new foundation was to be deep enough to provide rooms below the church, and there was also an addition made to the south and east sides of the church. A window on the east side was to be converted to a door into the addition, with the old sash being placed in the north elevation of the addition. A window on the east side of the chancel was closed off and the sash moved to the west end of the addition. The addition contains three rooms on the upper story, with the east room noted as a Sunday school room in the plans, the southeast room a choir room, and the southwest room a minister's study. The grading plan also shows that there was a tower or porch in the north bay of the east elevation, and a photograph of the church before the move seems to indicate that this was a canopy like that on the west. This doorway was closed off as part of these changes, and probably also in order to get additional seating in the church. The other change made to the sanctuary was the addition of half wainscot and the conversion of the west doors into smaller doors, with a transom added above. The original brackets that supported the exterior canopy over these doors, shown in the same historic photo, also have disappeared, and it seems most likely that they were lost as a result of this move. There was a chimney for a stove in the northwest corner of the church, and this was also removed and the ceiling patched. This change was likely due to the installation of central heating in the new basement. Moving the church was probably the result of a need for more space, which was most easily solved by raising the building up on a new foundation. Since the building had to get raised, it would have been easier to build the new foundation first. In the process, then, more space was made between the two buildings, enabling the addition to be made without creating a cramped situation. (3)

The church was built for a small congregation and there was little money for elaboration. As a result, the interior of the church always was, and remains, a simple one. The decorative treatments were placed on the exterior, including board and batten siding that was popular for Gothic Revival frame churches, wood shingles in the gable ends, decorative brackets under the canopy, and an open bell cote. Relay church is a good example of an architect being able to provide some character and distinction in a cheap and functional building.

The manse has undergone numerous changes, including having modern siding placed over the original weatherboards of the first story and wood shingles of the second story, and having all of the windows replaced. As can be seen in the old photo, the first story of the gable-fronted dwelling had a recessed three-bay porch set below the overhanging second story. The west and center bays of this porch have been enclosed to create a new, narrow room across the front. The stairs have also been altered, with the winder at the bottom of the stairway removed and replaced with a straight run that is only accessible from the new exterior door on the front. The stairs to the basement have also been altered, with the original interior doorway closed off and a new exterior door added on the east elevation. The oak mantel in the parlor survives and is very characteristic of the period c. 1890-1910, as do some of the decorative radiators. The second story has undergone few changes.

In 1922 the church hired M. P. Moller, Inc., of Hagerstown, to remove the organ from Grace Lutheran Church in Hamilton and re-erect it at Relay. The contract specified: "the present swell box of above organ to be cut off at the rear to conform with the angle of ceiling, any necessary mitering of pipes which may be necessitated by this to be included in this contract, those front pipes which are too long to be cut down and mitered or if sufficient speaking length cannot be secured, to be placed on the inside of the organ and new imitation pipes to be supplied." This was not the first organ in the church, as the congregation had hired an organist in the 1890s. At the time the church was moved, the organ was in the southeast corner. It has since been removed

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from the church. In 1945 the north window was installed. Mrs. Isabella Barnes apparently hired Miller Studio to create the window. The church paid Mr. Hutson \$25.00 to remove the sash, take it to Baltimore, cover the opening with paper, and bring back the completed window and install it. A letter regarding the window notes: "there was some of the original glass that he would not be able to get during the war. That fact makes the window look thin compared to the others and also makes a quicker transition from one color to another." In addition, backing glass could not be gotten, though it was noted that this allowed more light through the window. The church did not have a minister during the war, so they rented out the manse. Relay Presbyterian Church combined with Hope Presbyterian Church in Arbutus, and initially leased, and later sold, their buildings to the Catholic Community at Relay. (4)

- (1)□Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, A History of Baltimore County. (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979) pp. 155-58. Baltimore Republican and Argus, 3 May 1854. Transcript in the files of the Baltimore County Department of Planning, courtesy of John McGrain. Bonnie Lease. "Relay, the First Sixty Years." History Trails 15, no. 4 (Summer 1981): 14-15. Baltimore Sun, 9 April 1880, p. 1, col. 8.
- (2)□"Record Book, Relay Presbyterian Church," p. 113, 179-80, 207-08, 222, 239-41, 268. Hope Presbyterian Church archives, Arbutus. George W. Bromley and Walter S. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, (Philadelphia: G. W. Bromley, 1898, 1915).
- (3) Neal A. Brooks and Richard Parsons, Baltimore County Panorama, (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1988), p. 209.
- (4) ☐ M. P. Moller, Inc. and Relay Presbyterian Church, "Memorandum of Agreement," 31 May 1922. Hope Presbyterian Church archives, Arbutus. Letter, [?] to Mrs. Barnes, 23 January 1945. Hope Presbyterian Church archives, Arbutus.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. E

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .481 ac.

Acreage of historical setting .481 ac.

Quadrangle name

Relay

Quadrangle scale

1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are the existing lot lines, which encompass all the historic structures associated with the church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kenneth M. Short		
organization		date	5/31/0:
street and number	610 Regester Avenue	telephone 410-377-4953	
city or town	Baltimore	state MD zip c	ode 21212

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032

410-514-7600

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See footnotes







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Relay Presbyterian Church
5025 Cedar Avenue, Relay
Historic Photo, early 1900s
Brooks & Parsons, Baltimore
County Panorama, p. 209.



BA - 2385 Relay Prosbyterar Church 5025 Cedar Ave, Relay Balto Co, MD Ken Short Jan 2005 MO SHPO Church Nowekey



BA-2385 Reday Presbyter an Church 5025 Cedar Aver Relay Balto. Co, MO Ken Short Jan. 2005 Ma SHPO Church - 5 elev



BA 2385 Relay Presbyter an Church 5025 Cedar Ave, Relay Balto. Co, MD Ken Short Jan, 2005 MO SHPO Church E elev.



BA - 385 Relay Presbyteran Chich 5025 Cedar Ave, Relay Balto. Co, ND Kan Short Jan. 2005 MO SHPO Church Interior - VW. S.



BA - 2385 Relay Presbyterian Church 5025 Cedar Ave, Relay Balto Co., MD Ken Short Jan. 5005 MOSHPO Church interior - UW. N.



BA-2385 Rely Pressyler an Church 5025 Cedar Ave, Reby Baltoto, MD Ken Short Jan. 2005 MO SHPO Church lectern



BA - 2385 35 Relay Presbyterian Church 5025 Cedar Auc, Retay Balto. Co., MO Ken Short Feb 2005 MO S4-801 Manse JE & Nelevi



BA-2385 Relay Presbyterian Church 5025 Cedar Ave, Relay Baltimore Co., MD Ken Short Feb. 2005 MOSAPO Mansa-Wes elens



BA-2385 Relay Presby terran Church 5025 Cedar Ave, Relay Balto. Co., MD Ken Shart Feb. 2005 MOSAPO Manse - Center Rom mondel Avenue at Arlington, Relay. One story board and batten rectangular Gothic Revival church building, 40 by 60 feet, with principal entrance on the long side; five bays deep. Gothic windows with stained glass. Originally built as the Arlington Presbyterian Church, designed by Dixon and Carson as reported in the Sun, April 9, 1880. Name for the "Arlington" estate of P.G. Mitchell shown in 1877 atlas. Basement added in 1980s. In use by a Catholic group at time of 1988 survey by Jerry Fine.

BA-2385
Catholic Church & Catholic Center
5025 Cedar Avenue
Halethorpe
Relay Quadrangle
Baltimore County

